



## *Trade and Agriculture* **What's at Stake for New England?**

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U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Foreign Agricultural Service  
October 2001

From Connecticut to Maine, New England produces agricultural products that are exported worldwide. In 2000, the region's total cash receipts from farming reached \$2.1 billion. The region's agricultural exports were estimated at \$211 million in 2000. Agriculture is important to New England's economy. In 2000, it created 30,000 jobs on farms and in related sectors, such as food processing, storage, and transportation.

The region's top five exports in 2000 were tobacco leaf, apples, vegetables, dairy products, and poultry.

World demand for agricultural products is increasing, but so is competition among suppliers. If New England industries are to compete successfully for export opportunities in the 21st century, they need *fair trade* and *more open access* to growing global markets.

### **New England Benefits From Trade Agreements**

As a region, New England is already benefitting from a number of trade agreements. While there is still much to be done, examples of market opportunities include:

- # Trade agreements benefit all Americans. The North American Free Trade Agreement and the Uruguay Round agreement have resulted in annual gains of between \$1,260 and \$2,040 for the average American family of four. Free trade and open markets provide real benefits: lower prices, more choices, and higher incomes.
- # As one of the nation's larger commercial apple producers, New England benefits under the U.S.-Israel Agreement on Trade in Agricultural Products as Israel expands access to its apple market from 1,600 tons (duty-free quota) in 1995 to 1,855 tons in 2001.